

## **INTERAGENCY COORDINATION GROUP MEETING NOTES**

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**July 30, 2003**

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Participants: Eric Leitzinger-Idaho Fish & Game; Mark Russell, Elmore County; Tim Duffner, Idaho Department of Lands, Jeff Cook-Idaho Parks & Recreation; Thomas Grant (for Scott Short) Idaho Department of Water Resources; John Sullivan, Bureau of Land Management NCA; Mike O'Donnell-Bureau of Land Management, LSRD.

Observers: John Hatch-BLM; Mary Jones-BLM.

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Facilitator: Marsha Bracke, Bracke & Associates, Inc. (working for North Country Resources, Inc. and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution)

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### **Meeting purpose**

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) met on Wednesday, July 30 30, in the BLM Lower Snake River District Office Conference Room from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. The meeting objectives were to:

- Obtain a briefing on the status of process and products to date
- Review and discuss the no action alternative and affected environment
- Share agency-specific interests and concerns in the planning areas
- Discuss and confirm the schedule for and ICG participation in the alternative development process, and
- Review the subsequent meeting schedule.

The facilitator maintained meeting feedback and action items on flip chart notes as a record of the group meeting. Those flip chart notes follow this meeting summary.

Meeting handouts included:

- Agenda
- Copies of the Bruneau and Snake River Birds of Prey product matrices
- Description and draft agendas for the alternatives development small and large group work process, and
- The schedule of small work group meeting dates, times and locations.

### **Results**

The group reviewed the ICG purpose statement, responsibilities and principles of meeting conduct. As a follow-up to the evaluation process conducted at the previous ICG meeting, it was acknowledged that this meeting would be held for two, rather than three, hours from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon; that the coordinating agencies will provide a summary of the issues and activities in which they are involved in general and as related to the two planning areas; and that all participants are encouraged to be forthcoming and frank—which can be fostered by the rest of the group's recognition that this forum is in discussion phases only, the process is ongoing, and that things discussed here are not taken out of context and reported somewhere else. Participants at this specific meeting acknowledged the iterative nature of the discussions.

#### Process and products to date

Mike O'Donnell provided a brief background on the RMP process and the existing products for the benefit of participants who were new to this forum. Mike stressed the importance of the ongoing involvement of interested agencies and the opportunity to use this forum for consistency review throughout the process. Mike described the development of the issue statements; the Desired Future Condition (DFC) statements; and the RMP questions and data required to answer the questions. Mike reported that cooperating agency personnel have been intimately involved in the process as well. BLM hosted a series of data fairs where the public, ICG, RAC, and cooperators were invited to review the BLM data available and contribute additional data, ideas and suggestions relative to this data. Idaho Parks and Recreation specifically has been sharing data with BLM personnel, and other members of the public had information to offer.

Mike pointed out *that the process is about to enter its most crucial phase—the development of draft alternatives—and the ICG is highly encouraged to participate in this process.*

Mike also described the status of the no action alternative and affected environment documents. He reported that the no action alternative is a statement about the current management, describing what the BLM is doing today and, as the first alternative for inclusion in the RMPs, will be subject to analysis in a manner that shows the impacts of that alternative if the BLM continues as it is managing now.

The affected environment describes the current condition of the natural and social environment and identifies the trends that resulted in the current condition.

All the process documents, like the no action alternative and affected environment, are available on the BLM website when they are completed: [www.blm.id.gov](http://www.blm.id.gov) (click on planning). The no action alternative and affected environment documents will be distributed to the ICG on August 22. (Note: This date has since been extended to August 25) The ICG committed to providing comments to the BLM by August 30 (Note, this date has been extended to September 8).

#### ICG Round Robin

ICG participants took part in a round robin discussion to share the activities on which their respective agencies were working and, as appropriate, their interests or concerns within the BLM's planning areas. That input was recorded on flip chart notes and is included in this summary.

#### Alternatives Development Process

Mike reviewed the alternatives development process flowchart as provided to the ICG at its April meeting. Additional detail outlined participants' pre-process homework assignments and draft agendas for both the small work group and large work group processes.

ICG members were asked to participate with the BLM's interdisciplinary team, cooperators and RAC members in the small work group alternative development process

to the extent possible, calling on other agency personnel resources as appropriate. The ICG is also invited to participate in the large work group process, where small work group products will be integrated into draft alternatives.

Mike pointed out that he is required to have draft alternatives in front of the public by the end of the year. In spite of the intense schedule, the BLM repeated its commitment to an open and involved a process.

The BLM distributed a copy of the small work group and large work group meeting dates, and the ICG committed to providing names of potential ICG participants to the BLM by August 15, 2003.

### **Action Items**

1. Marsha will deliver the draft meeting notes to BLM on August 1,
2. BLM will send the draft of no action/affected environment to ICG participants on August 22,
3. ICG participants will review and comment on the no action/affected environment documents by August 30, and
4. ICG participants will provide names and commitments to small work groups to Mike by August 15.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 (*Note: it was earlier reported that this meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 18. Please make the change on your calendars*). The next meeting agenda features a review of the draft alternatives as developed via the alternative development process and prior to the public meeting process.

The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

## FLIP CHART NOTES

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### OBJECTIVES

- Obtain a briefing on the status of process and products to date ✓
- Review and discuss the no action alternative and affected environment ✓
- Share agency-specific interests and concerns in the planning areas ✓
- Discuss and confirm the schedule for and ICG participation in the alternative development process ✓
- Review the subsequent meeting schedule ✓

### FEEDBACK: PRODUCTS TO DATE

- Baseline work underway
- Letting contract for analysis

### AGENCY ROUND ROBIN

#### Idaho Parks & Recreation

- Starting process to revise Comprehensive Plan (hiring a human dimensions analyst)
- Sharing data with BLM

#### Idaho Department of Water Resources

- No specific planning underway in two BLM planning areas
- Comprehensive Statewide Water Plan anticipated for adoption with the next legislative session
- Nature of decisions—Water Resource Board responsible for in-stream flow water rights and designating waters with natural or recreation state protection status (other parts of product are recommendations only)

#### Idaho Department of Lands

- Manage lands to generate income
- Most lands in that area used for grazing
- Be open to ideas to generate more money
- Would be looking at opportunities for land exchanges as appropriate
- Need to coordinate and understand OHV access

#### Elmore County

- On north end of two planning areas
- Interested in grazing, ranching, mining, OHV use, availability of water
- Water district potential
- Recreation – interested in potential exchanges in Pine/Featherville area; Orchard Training Area
- In fourth draft of County Comprehensive Plan, outlining plans for areas that abut the BLM planning areas

#### Idaho Fish and Game

- Redband Trout surveys potentially next year
- NWPPC subbasin plan on Snake River due for completion next spring
- Bruneau/Jarbridge is one subbasin; Owyhee is another – pulling together existing information
- Concerns for fish and wildlife habitat, primarily Redband Trout and also Bull Trout and sage grouse
- Fisheries Management Plan may be helpful

#### NCA

- Completed monitoring on golden eagle, prairie falcon
- Completed ground squirrel trapping study
- Conducting recreation survey from OTA west and around CJ Strike
- Decision on Slick Spot Peppergrass extended 6 months; BLM working on Biological Assessment
- Developing proposal to compile all data/research for NCA in last 50 years

#### FEEDBACK: ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

- Ignore dry run dates

#### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

10 a.m. – Noon

BLM Conference Room

- Not November 18 as previously announced
- Review draft alternatives pre-public meetings

#### ACTION ITEMS

1. Marsha – deliver draft meeting notes to BLM on August 1
2. BLM to send draft of no action/affected environment to ICG on August 22
3. ICG to review and comment on no action/affected environment by August 30
4. ICG respond with names and commitments to small work groups by August 15